plans to bring out a new curriculum on contemporary history (1946-1996);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake an elaborate exercise to prepare new curriculum for other subjects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). The Government feel that our achievement in various fields during the almost 50 years of independence should be suitably reflected in the history courses, particularly at the school and undergraduate levels. Discussions are currently going on with the eminent historians and educationists in regard to the content and modalities necessary for the exercise.

(c)and (d) There is no proposal to prepare new curriculum for other subjects.

(e) Does not arise.

News-Item 'Majority oppose India Playing in Sharjah'

3174. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
PROF. PREM DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Majority oppose India playing in Sharjah" appearing in the 'Hindu dated November 16,1991 (New Delhi Edition); and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTEMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has noted the contents of this report with concern. Similar allegations have been received from other sources also. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been requested to give its comments on allegations contained in such reports. On receipt of further details from BCCI, Government may review its cricketing exchange with the organisers of the recent Sharjah Cricket Tournament viz. Cricketers Benefit Fund Series.

Relieving Children from "Big Bags"

3175. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government announced on the occassion of 'Children Day' this year a major move which would relieve young children of the burden of "big bags" through an appropriate and relevant change in curriculum and the education made more socially relevant; and

(b) if so, the preparatory action being taken to lesson the 'Big Bags' burden on the young and small children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Human Resource Development will be holding discussions with parents, teachers, child psychologists, educationists, paediatric-physicians and other experts to suggest concrete steps required to be taken in this regard in a time bound manner.